

KWS LAUNCHES 20 NATIONWIDE FORUMS ON PROPOSED PARK FEE ADJUSTMENTS

Stakeholders Invited to Shape New Conservation Funding Model for Protected Areas

Nairobi – 17th July 2025: The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), under the guidance of the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, has announced a comprehensive public participation exercise on proposed adjustments to park entry and conservation fees.

The exercise will feature 20 in-person forums across the country, running from July 29 to August 8, 2025, in a major step toward strengthening Kenya's conservation financing framework.

The consultations are anchored in the draft Wildlife Conservation and Management (Access and Conservation) (Fees) Regulations, 2025, and an accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement. These instruments propose a review of conservation fees for entry into national parks, reserves, marine parks, and sanctuaries, marking the first major fee overhaul since 2007.

"These consultations represent our commitment to inclusive decision-making," said Prof. Erustus Kanga, Director General of KWS. "We particularly want to hear from communities living near wildlife areas, tour operators, conservationists, and the Kenyan public. Every voice matters in shaping the future of our parks."

Why the Fee Review Matters

Kenya's current conservation financing model is heavily reliant on tourism revenue, which makes up nearly 90% of KWS's internal income. However, challenges such as inflation, climate change, human-wildlife conflict, and revenue volatility have exposed major sustainability gaps.

Key facts driving the review:

- 72% of KWS's annual budget is spent on personnel costs, leaving little room for infrastructure development, wildlife security, and habitat restoration.
- The last review of conservation fees was in 2007, despite a decade of rising operational costs.
- Development spending, including ranger housing, vehicle acquisition, fencing, and surveillance infrastructure, accounts for only 10% of the total budget.
- Top five parks (Amboseli, Lake Nakuru, Nairobi, Tsavo East, and Tsavo West) contribute 73% of all park revenue, subsidizing over 150 field stations and conflict response units.

"We're not just adjusting numbers—we are recalibrating a system to ensure Kenya's wildlife heritage thrives for generations," Prof. Kanga emphasized.

Public Participation Schedule

KWS will host simultaneous public forums across key counties as follows:

July 29, 2025

- Tom Mboya University Hall – Homa Bay
- Hola Primary School – Hola
- Marsabit National Park Museum Hall – Marsabit

July 30, 2025

- Tom Mboya Hall – Kisumu
- Imenti North CDF Hall – Meru
- Mwanarafa Hall – Lamu

July 31, 2025

- Kitale Polytechnic Hall – Kitale
- Chogoria Social Hall – Chogoria
- Turtle Bay Beach Club Hotel – Watamu, Kilifi

August 1, 2025

- Uasin Gishu County Hall – Eldoret
- Nanyuki CDF Hall – Nanyuki
- Mombasa Beach Hotel – Mombasa

August 4, 2025

- Nakuru County Hall – Nakuru
- Kenya School of Government – Embu
- County Social Hall, Bongwe – Ukunda

August 5, 2025

- Machakos University Hall – Machakos
- Nyeri Cultural Centre – Nyeri
- Dan Mwazo Hall – Voi

August 6, 2025

- Wote Green Park Social Hall – Wote

August 8, 2025

- Kenyatta International Convention Centre (Amphitheater) – Nairobi

Ways to Participate

In addition to physical forums, stakeholders can engage through the following channels:

1. Document Access

- Online:
 - o www.kws.go.ke
 - o www.tourism.go.ke
- Physical copies:
 - o Available **free of charge** at all KWS-managed parks, stations, and sanctuaries countrywide

2. Written Submissions

- Email: rates@kws.go.ke
- Postal Address:

**The Director General
Kenya Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 40241 – 00100
Nairobi, Kenya**

- **Deadline for submissions: August 5, 2025**

Anticipated Outcomes

The proposed changes will:

- Ensure financial sustainability of Kenya's conservation efforts
- Support improved infrastructure in parks and protected areas
- Enhance visitor experiences and safety
- Strengthen human-wildlife conflict response mechanisms
- Expand community benefit-sharing programs, especially in regions adjacent to protected areas

Next Steps After Consultation

Following the conclusion of the public participation process:

1. All feedback will be analyzed and consolidated into a final report.
2. The draft Regulations will be revised accordingly.
3. A final version will be submitted to Parliament for review and approval.

#YourParkYourVoice #ConservationForPosterity #KWSFeesReview2025

For further information, contact:

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

**Toll-Free: 0800 597 000
WhatsApp: +254 726 610 509
Email: communications@kws.go.ke**